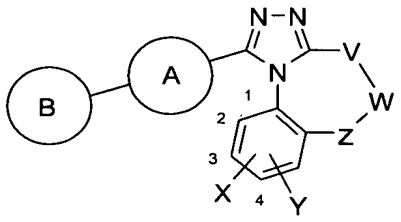
CLAIMS:

1. A compound of formula **(I)**,



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, wherein

V represents $-(CH_2)_d(O)_e-$, -CO-, or $-CH(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)-;

W is -O-, $-S(O)_a-$, or $-N(R^1)-$

R^1 represents H, C_{1-6} alkyl, $(CH_2)_bCOR^2$, $CO(CH_2)_bNR^2R^3$, SO_2R^2, $(CH_2)_cOR^2$, $(CH_2)_cNR^2R^3$, or $(CH_2)_bhet^1$;

het^1 represents a saturated or unsaturated heterocycle of from 3 to 8 atoms containing one or more heteroatoms selected from O, N, or S, optionally substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl;

X and Y independently represent H, C_{1-6} alkyl, halogen, OH, CF_3, OCF_3, OR^4;

Z represents $-(CH_2)_f(O)_g-$, -CO- or $-CH(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)-;

Ring **A** represents a 4-7 membered, saturated N-containing heterocycle, optionally substituted with OH, and in which optionally at least one ring N is substituted with O;

Ring **B** represents phenyl or a 4-7 membered unsaturated N-containing heterocycle, optionally substituted with OH, halogen, CN, $CONH_2$, CF_3, OCF_3, and in which optionally at least one ring N is substituted with O;

R^2 and R^3 independently represent H, C_{1-6} alkyl [optionally substituted with OH, halogen, $N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl$)_2$, or C_{1-6} alkyloxy], C_{1-6} alkyloxy, $N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl$)_2$, or [C_{3-8} cycloalkyl];

or R^2 and R^3, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached independently represent a heterocycle of from 3 to 8 atoms, optionally substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^4 represents straight or branched C_{1-6} alkyl,

a and c independently represent 0, 1, or 2;
b, e and g independently represent 0 or 1; and
d and f independently represent 1 or 2.

2. A compound according to claim 1, wherein W represents NR^1.

3. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1 represents H, C_{1-6} alkyl, $-(CH_2)_bCOR^2$ or SO_2R^2.

4. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is methyl.

5. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^2 is morpholinyl or pyrimidinyl (optionally substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl [optionally substituted with OH, halogen, $N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl$)_2$, or C_{1-6} alkyloxy] or NMe_2).

6. A compound according to claim 1, wherein X is H.

7. A compound according to claim 1, wherein Y is in the 4-position of the phenylene ring (according to the numbering of formula **(I)**) to which it is attached.

8. A compound according to claim 7, wherein Y is chloro.

9. A compound according to claim 1, wherein ring **A** is linked to ring **B** via a nitrogen atom in ring **A**.

10. A compound according to claim 1, wherein ring **A** represents piperidinyl (optionally substituted with OH, and optionally at least one N is substituted with O).

11. A compound according to claim 1, wherein ring **B** represents pyridinyl or pyrimidinyl (optionally substituted with OH, halogen, CN, $CONH_2$, CF_3, OCF_3, and optionally at least one ring N is substituted with O).

12. A compound according to claim 11, wherein ring **B** represents pyridinyl.

13. A compound according to claim 1, wherein V represents $-CH_2-$.

14. A compound according to claim 1, wherein Z represents $-CH_2-$.

15. A compound according to claim 1, wherein when R^2 and R^3 together with the nitrogen to which they are attached represent a heterocycle, the heterocycle is selected from piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, pyrimidinyl, tetrahydropyranyl, or morpholinyl, optionally substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl.

16. A compound according to claim 1, selected from:

8-chloro-5-methyl-1-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene trihydrochloride;

8-chloro-5-isopropyl-1-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene trihydrochloride;

1-[8-chloro-1-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulen-5-yl]-ethanone dihydrochloride;

8-chloro-5-methanesulfonyl-1-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

8-chloro-5-methyl-1-(1-pyrimidin-2-yl-piperidin-4-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

8-chloro-5-methanesulfonyl-1-(1-pyrimidin-2-yl-piperidin-4-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

13-chloro-8-methyl-3-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-2,4,5,8-tetraaza-tricyclo[9.4.0.0*2,6*]pentadeca-1(11),3,5,12,14-pentaene;

13-chloro-3-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-8-oxa-2,4,5-triaza-tricyclo[9.4.0.0*2,6*]pentadeca-1(11),3,5,12,14-pentaene;

1-[8-chloro-1-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulen-5-yl]-2-dimethylamino-ethanone;

[8-chloro-1-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulen-5-yl]-morpholin-4-yl-methanone;

(+) or (-) 8-chloro-5-(4-methyl-morpholin-2-ylmethyl)-1-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

8-chloro-5-pyrimidin-2-yl-1-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

8-chloro-1-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-sulphonic acid dimethylamide;

8-chloro-1-(1-pyrimidin-2-yl-piperidin-4-yl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-sulphonic acid dimethylamide;

13-chloro-9-methyl-3-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-2,4,5,9-tetraaza-tricyclo[9.4.0.0*2,6*]pentadeca-1(11),3,5,12,14-pentaene;

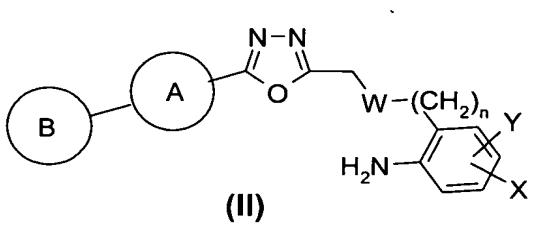
13-chloro-8-methyl-3-(1-pyrimidin-2-yl-piperidin-4-yl)-2,4,5,8-tetraaza-tricyclo[9.4.0.0*2,6*]pentadeca-1(11),3,5,12,14-pentaene; or pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof.

17. A method of treatment of anxiety, cardiovascular disease (including angina, atherosclerosis, hypertension, heart failure, edema, hypernatremia), dysmenorrhoea (primary and secondary), endometriosis, emesis (including motion sickness), intrauterine growth retardation, inflammation (including rheumatoid arthritis), mittlesmerchz, preclampsia, premature ejaculation, premature (preterm) labor or Raynaud's disease, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 to a patient suffering from such a disorder.

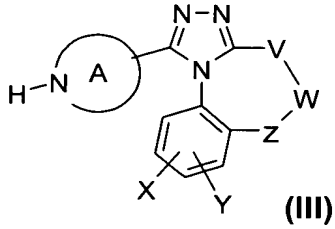
18. A method according to claim 17, wherein the disorder is dysmenorrhoea (primary or secondary).

19. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound according to claim 1, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent or carrier.

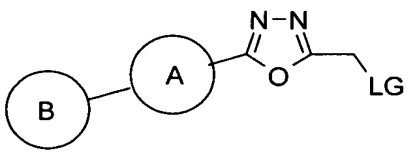
20. The compounds of formulae **(II)**, **(III)**, **(X)**, **(XV)**, **(XXIV)** and **(XXV)**:



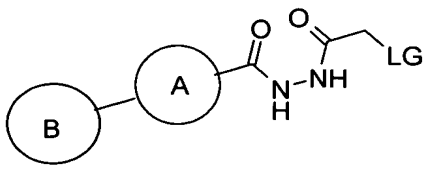
(II)



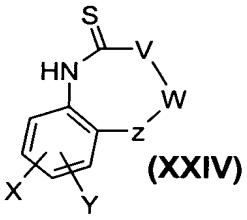
(III)



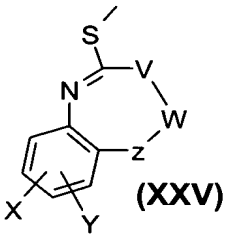
(X)



(XV)



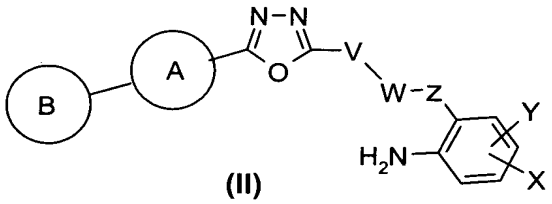
(XXIV)



(XXV)

wherein W, X, Y, Z, rings **A** and **B**, and n are as defined in claim 1 and LG represents a leaving group.

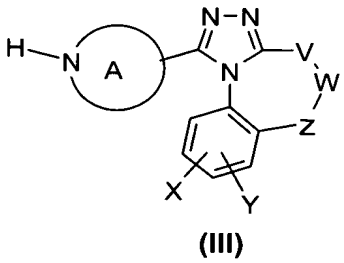
21. A process of making a compound of formula **(I)** as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, comprising: reacting a compound of formula **(II)** with an acid catalyst



(II)

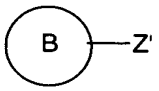
wherein rings **A** and **B**, and groups W, X, Y and n are as defined above.

22. A process of making a compound of formula **(I)** as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, comprising: reacting a compound of formula **(III)**



(III)

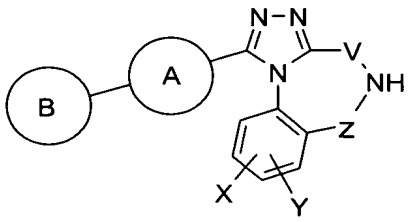
with a compound of formula **(IV)**



(IV)

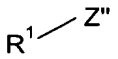
wherein rings **A** and **B**, and groups W, X, Y and n are as defined in claim 1, and Z' represents a leaving group such as halogen.

23. A process for making a compound of formula **(I)** as defined in claim 1, wherein W represents NR^1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, comprising: reacting a compound of formula **(V)**



(V)

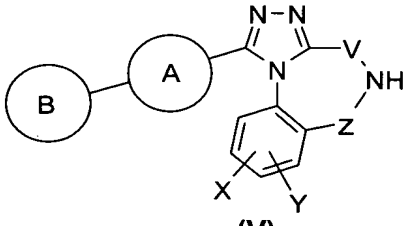
with a compound of formula **(VI)**



(VI)

wherein rings **A** and **B**, and groups R^1, X, Y and n are as defined in claim 1, and Z" represents a leaving group such as halogen.

24. A process for making a compound of formula **(I)** as defined in claim 1, wherein W represents NR^1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, comprising: reacting a compound of formula **(V)**



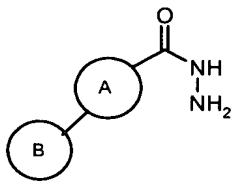
(V)

with a compound of formula **(VII)**

(VII)

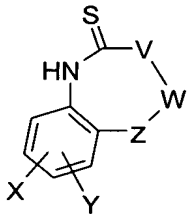
wherein rings **A** and **B**, and groups R^1, X, Y and n are as defined in claim 1.

25. A process for making a compound of formula **(I)** as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, comprising reacting a compound of formula **(XIII)**



(XIII)

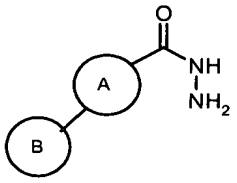
with a compound of formula **(XXIV)**



(XXIV)

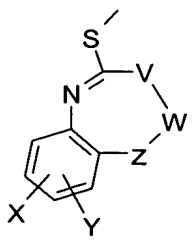
wherein rings **A** and **B**, and groups V, W, X, Y and Z are as defined in claim 1.

26. A process of making a compound of formula **(I)** as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, comprising reacting a compound of formula **(XIII)**



(XIII)

with a compound of formula **(XXV)**



(XXV)

wherein rings **A** and **B**, and groups V, W, X, Y and Z are as defined in claim 1.